

FM: "Marshall Cedilote" [MCEDILOT@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:MCEDILOT@tceq.state.tx.us), 03/20/2008 09:55 AM  
TO: <cudla.courtney@epa.gov>, Stephen Tzhone/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Robert  
Werner/R6/USEPA/US@EPA  
Subj: Fwd: FW: 3WastePits.pdf

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>>> "Patricia Radloff" <Patricia.Radloff@tpwd.state.tx.us> 3/20/2008 9:18 AM >>>  
Marshall,

Have you heard?

Pat

//

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Koenig [<mailto:LKOENIG@tceq.state.tx.us>]  
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 8:36 AM  
To: Faith Hambleton; Jim Davenport; Tom Weber; Patricia Radloff  
Cc: Roger Miranda  
Subject: 3WastePits.pdf

San Jacinto River "lost waste pits" are now an official Superfund site  
(and the Donna Canal also).

Lk

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**Below newspaper article attached to the Thursday, March 20, 2008 8:36 AM email:**

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3 waste pits are now on EPA list  
Designation means more federal funds for cleanup  
By MATTHEW TRESAUGUE  
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The Environmental Protection Agency added three submerged industrial waste pits that have been  
contaminating the San Jacinto River with highly toxic dioxin for decades to the Superfund list of the nation's  
most polluted places Wednesday.

The new designation would mean more federal money to identify and remove the hazardous waste from the  
abandoned pits just north of the Interstate 10 bridge in Channelview.

It's still not known how much time or money will be needed for the cleanup of the 20-acre site, EPA spokesman  
Dave Bary said.

"It's absolutely good news," said Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, who represents much of the  
affected area. "We'll anxiously await the EPA folks to set a timetable. The quicker we get started, the happier  
we will be."

The decision comes nearly three years after state scientists linked the waste pits to high levels of dioxin in fish.  
The state has warned people since 1990 about the hazards of eating fish and crab caught along the Houston Ship  
Channel, especially north of the Lynchburg Ferry.

Dioxin, the popular name for a group of cancer-causing chemical compounds, was a standard byproduct of chemical and pesticide manufacturing and paper bleaching. It achieved notoriety in the 1970s as an ingredient in the herbicide Agent Orange, which the United States used extensively during the Vietnam War, and as one of the toxic wastes dumped at Love Canal in New York.

The now-defunct McGinnis Industrial Maintenance Corp. operated the waste pits in the 1960s and may have been shut down by the mid-1970s, according to the EPA.

The site also stored waste from a paper mill operated by Champion Paper Co. The mill near the Washburn Tunnel is closed, and Champion no longer owns it.

Parts of the site later became submerged in the river, dispersing contaminants downstream into the Ship Channel and Galveston Bay.

The EPA also added the Donna reservoir and canal system and the Midessa ground water plume in Odessa to the Superfund list. Buddy Garcia, chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, described the new additions as "the most complex, most polluted in the state."